



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

November 6, 2014

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To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
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From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## **REPORT ON COUNTY PARTICIPATION IN THE CREATION OF THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS MONUMENT PLAN AND ANY NEEDED LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS (ITEM NO. 36-A, BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 2014)**

This memorandum is to report back to the Board on how the County will participate in the creation of the San Gabriel Mountains monument plan and the identification of any legislative actions needed to ensure that the essential departmental activities identified by the Fire Department and Department of Public Works (DPW) are protected as instructed by the Board on October 14, 2014.

President Obama's October 10, 2014 proclamation to establish the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument on 346,177 acres of the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests directs the Secretary of Agriculture ("Secretary") through the Forest Service to prepare a management plan for the monument within three years in consultation with the Department of the Interior. The proclamation also instructs the Secretary to "provide for the maximum public involvement in the development of that plan, including, but not limited to, consultation with tribal, State, and local government."

County departments, including, but not limited to the Fire Department and DPW, will actively participate in the creation of the monument's management plan to ensure that essential departmental activities are protected. We will notify the Forest Service of the County's interest in being consulted in the development of the management plan and in reviewing and commenting on any draft plans that could affect the County. We expect that the County will have meaningful input into the development of the management plan. Not only does the President's proclamation call for consultation with local

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government in the development of the management plan, but County departments, such as Fire and DPW, also have had a longstanding working relationship with the Forest Service, which has managed the Angeles National Forest land that is included in the new national monument.

County departments also have prior experience in working with the Department of Interior, which will be consulted in the development of the monument's management plan. Most notably, County departments, including DPW, provided input to the Department of Interior's National Park Service when it was preparing the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study -- a study to determine whether the San Gabriel Mountains should be included in the National Park System.

The Fire Department, DPW, and this office have not identified any legislative actions which are needed at this time to ensure that essential departmental activities of those departments are protected. The proclamation includes language which suggests that such activities will be protected. For example, it includes language stating that: "Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to interfere with the operation or maintenance, nor with the replacement or modification within the existing authorization boundary, of existing water resource, flood control, utility, pipeline, or telecommunications facilities that are located within the monument," and "Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to alter the authority or responsibility of any party with respect to emergency response activities within the monument, including wildland fire response." As indicated previously, County departments will seek to ensure that essential departmental activities are protected in the monument's management plan.

It also is extremely unlikely that Congress would enact legislation affecting the management of the San Gabriel National Monument, especially while President Obama, who established the monument remains in office. Congress has not enacted legislation affecting the management of any presidentially-established monument in at least the past 35 years.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA  
MR:MT:ma

c:     Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
        Office of the County Counsel  
        Sheriff's Department  
        Fire Department  
        Department of Parks and Recreation  
        Department of Public Works  
        Department of Regional Planning